



SEN. GEORGE RUNNER (RET.)

MEMBER
STATE BOARD OF EQUALIZATION
CALIFORNIA'S TAX BOARD

March 27, 2013

The Honorable Richard Bloom
California State Assembly
State Capitol
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: SUPPORT AB1222 (Bloom)

Dear Assembly Member Bloom,

I am writing in support of your Assembly Bill 1222. This legislation will increase the threshold of funds the Taxpayers' Rights Advocate is authorized to restore to the taxpayer upon a finding that the levy or notice to withhold threatens the health or welfare of the taxpayer, or his or her spouse, and/or dependents. This bill would increase the current amount the Taxpayers' Rights Advocate is authorized to order returned from \$1,500 to \$2,300 and would authorize this amount to be adjusted for inflation.

As an elected member of the Board of Equalization, I hear frequently from taxpayers, including many small business owners, who are struggling to get back on their feet again as a result of California's severe economic downturn. When these taxpayers fall behind on their tax payments, the state may issue a levy or notice to withhold, which can sometimes negatively impact their ability to provide basic necessities for their family.

AB 1222 remedies this problem by providing the Advocate the needed discretion to restore additional funds, thus helping struggling business owners provide for their families. Thank you for introducing this important legislation to help California's economic recovery.

Sincerely,

GEORGE RUNNER
Second District